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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 9, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

HONORING WOMEN OF TOMORROW MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a wonderful organization, the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program. As a former educator and Florida certified teacher with a doctorate in education from the University of Miami, I know first hand the importance of providing our children every opportunity to succeed. The Women of Tomorrow

Program is a local lifeline for at-risk young women. This pioneering program pairs extremely accomplished professional women with small groups of at-risk teenage girls in public high schools for a 4-year mentoring program.

These mentoring women who could be judges, doctors, lawyers, indeed from all walks of life, they are all volunteers who are dedicated to showing teenage girls the possibilities that exist if they stay on the right track.

The Women of Tomorrow Program gives students the hope and inspiration needed to be successful, productive, active adults. The volunteers build self-confidence, assist the girls in achieving academic success, and help students give back to their community in both a constructive and positive manner.

Founded in 1997 by veteran TV journalist Jennifer Valoppi and Telemundo president Don Browne, Women of Tomorrow is an unrivaled positive and growing force within our south Florida community. Dozens of public high schools throughout south Florida have implemented the Women of Tomorrow Program. These schools allow over 2,000 young women to be helped by this program. And the high school graduation rate of students in the program is nearly 90 percent.

The Women of Tomorrow Program is inspiring at-risk young women to achieve their fullest potential through a strong education. And since 2000, the Women of Tomorrow project has presented \$2.3 million in scholarship value to over 800 graduates of their program for college. The support offered by the volunteers of Women of Tomorrow give these young women the confidence to pursue a college degree, to realize that they can achieve their goals.

The incredible impact this program has had on south Florida in helping countless troubled youth achieve success is truly phenomenal. It is because of the commitment of dedicated volun-

teers, mentors, and staff at Women of Tomorrow that this innovative program has been such an immense success.

As a proud grandmother of a beautiful baby girl, I know our girls deserve a program like Women of Tomorrow. I look forward to hearing more about all of the future successes of each young woman that is involved in Women of Tomorrow, and congratulate everyone involved for their everyday victory for our children.

I include for the RECORD the wonderful board of directors that guides the Women of Tomorrow Program.

Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to submit for the RECORD the board of directors for the Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program: Jennifer Valoppi, Television Journalist & Author, Founder & President; Don Browne, President, Telemundo Network, Co-Founder & Vice President; The Honorable Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Miami-Dade State Attorney, Founding Mentor & Co-Vice President; Betty Amos, President, The Abkey Companies, Founding Mentor, Board Member & Treasurer; Judge Judith Kreeger, Miami-Dade County Circuit Court, Founding Mentor & Secretary; Jamie Byington, Tax Partner, Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, L.L.P., Board Member; Donna Feldman, CPA, PA, Mentor & Board Member; Marisa Toccin, President, Linea Luxe Lifestyle, Board Member; Lisa Stewart Hughes, Vice President, Compliance, Telemundo/NBC Universal, Board Member; Dr. Diane Walder, MD, PA, Founding Mentor & Board Member.

RESTORING AMERICANS' NET WORTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, since it began in 2007, the Great Recession has caused tremendous hardships throughout the Nation. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs, in increasingly larger numbers

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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